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SHORT COMMUNICATION

Some observations on *Agrilus sinuatus* (Ol.) and *A. pannonicus* (Pill. & Mitt.) in south-east London.—Previously both regarded as extremely rare insects and accorded Red Data Book status 2 "vulnerable" by Levey (1987), these jewel beetles have more recently been shown to be quite widespread. Exit holes and larval workings allow fairly confident diagnosis of the species, and although their presence does not necessarily mean that there is a thriving colony, it is usually fairly obvious how old these signs are. Both species have now been "down-graded" to Notable A status (Hyman & Parsons, 1992).

Both of these species have been found widely in north London (Foster, 1987; Hackett, 1994), so I was pleased to find them recently in south-east London. On 6.vi.95, I found *A. sinuatus* borings under the bark of a dead hawthorn on the eastern edge of Beckenham Place Park, between Lewisham and Bromley (TQ 378710; VC 16, West Kent). And on 19.vi.95 I discovered exit holes in another dead hawthorn near the western boundary of the park (TQ386706). On 4.ix.95 and 10.x.95, I found exit holes in several old hawthorn trees just outside the entrance to St Augustine's Church, Honor Oak (TQ358745; also VC16, West Kent).

On the occasion of 4.xi.95, I also found extensive exit holes of *A. pannonicus* in the stump of a large tree, probably oak, in the grounds of St Augustine's Church. This stump also produced *Platypus cylindrus* (F.) (Platypodidae), *Bitoma crenata* (F.) (Colydiidae) and a large dead female stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* (L.) (Lucanidae).

The twisted tunnels of *A. sinuatus* have previously been illustrated (Alexander, 1990), but those that I found in Beckenham Place Park showed a more regular sinuous character (Fig. 1a), which I took to be the initial borings of earlier larval instars. The characteristic D-shaped exit holes of the two species are slightly different in shape; those of *A. sinuatus* are broader and flatter and more nearly semi-circular (Fig. 1b), while those of *A. pannonicus* are generally rounder and more highly arched (Fig. 2a). It is probably as a consequence of the relative sizes of the respective tree species which are burrowed, that whereas exit holes of *A. sinuatus* occur sparingly in

Fig. 1a (left). Sinuous burrows made by the larvae of *Agrilus sinuatus*, Beckenham Place Park, 6.vi.95. The hawthorn branch is about 125 mm (5 inches) in diameter. Fig. 1b (right). D-shaped exit hole of *Agrilus sinuatus* in a hawthorn branch, Honor Oak 4.ix.95. The hole is about 3.0–3.5 mm across.

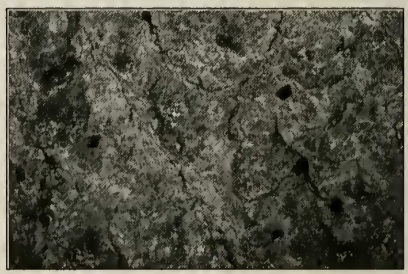

Fig. 2a (left). D-shaped exit hole of *Agrilus pannonicus* in an oak stump, Honor Oak, 4.xi.95. The hole is about 3.0–3.5 mm across. Fig. 2b (right). Seven closely grouped exit holes of *Agrilus pannonicus* in an oak stump, Honor Oak, 4.ix.95. The large stump, 1.3 metre (4 feet) across and 1 metre (3 feet) high had about 50 exit holes in its sides.

any one hawthorn branch, the exits of *A. pannonicus* often occur together in numbers (Fig.2b).—RICHARD A. JONES, 13 Bellwood Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3DE.

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NOTE ADDED IN PROOF

Various London records, including several in south London, have recently been published in Hackett, D. S. 1995. The jewel beetle *Agrilus pannonicus* in the London area. *London Naturalist* **74**: 161–164.